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SENT DEPARTMENT 2850; REPEATED INFORMATION NIACT BONN 124,
BERLIN 15; PARIS 387, MOSCOW 77.

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DEPTTEL 5053

Confirming Merchant-Barbour TELECON, Embassy has reservations about desirability publicizing demarche (assuming French objections overcome). Foreign Office (Rumbold) has same views. Various recent and numerous earlier statements from each of three powers have made public position clear. What is most needed now is strong joint statement to Soviets, which seems to us will carry greater weight with Soviets and thus be more effective deterrent, if not addressed to other ears (public) than theirs. (Easier for Soviets to back down in face of private than public challenge.) Language of statement also seems to us better and more effective for private than public use. Language in fact may even seem weak in public statement, whereas in private statement its full meaning will not be lost on Soviets. If statement not to be publicized it might be more acceptable to French, as better calculated prevent Soviets from taking definite action, and less likely give impression Western nervousness - Paris 1721 to Department.

1921

WHITNEY

MMC:MLJ/7

Correction made
by RM/R

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